Vol. VII. Numb. 90

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Rehearſer's *Calumnies on the* Obſervator, *as traducing the whole* Scotch *Nation, refuted. Remarks on two late Pamphlets relating to* Scots *Affairs, entitl'd,* An Anſwer to the Account of the Elections in *North Britain*, &c. *and* A View of the late *Scotch* Miniſtry. *Juſtices of Peace there inſult her Majeſty's Laws and Proclamations, and favour Epiſcopal Intruders into Churches. The* Scots *have Reaſon to expect Redreſs, upon due Application to the* Britiſh *Miniſtry; and on the retaking of* Ghent.

From **Wednesday**, December 22. to **Saturday**, December 25. 1708.

Country-m. YOU muſt check the *Rehearſer* a little, Maſter; for he grows every Day more inſolent.

Obſ. I don't wonder at that, *Roger*; for *evil Men and Seducers*, (ſays the Text) *grow worſe and worſe*: But what's the Matter now, *Roger*?

Country-m. He ſays, Maſter, in his Paper of the 18th Inſtant, you arraign the whole Nation of the *Scots*, as Traitors to the Government; thoſe eſpecially who are employ'd by it.

Obſ. But how does he prove it, *Roger*?

Country-m. Becauſe you ſaid, Maſter, in yours of the 1ſt Inſtant, 'That the Pretender was pray'd 'for there, and no Body proſecuted for it; there-'fore you would ceaſe to wonder any more at his 'Attempt to land there; for he had good Reaſon 'to think he would be welcome to a Country, 'where he was pray'd for without Controul: Nor 'would you trouble your Head any more to en-'quire, why the *Scotch* Garriſons were ſo ill pro-'vided, and the Nation in a Poſture ſo unfit to 'oppoſe him?

Obſ. Alas! poor Man, I find his Reaſon and Honeſty are much of a Size; the Premiſes will by no Means bear his Concluſion. That the Pretender has been pray'd for there in *Jacobite* Conventicles, and none proſecuted for it, as they ought to have been, is a Thing ſo very well known, that no Body but himſelf, and thoſe of his Party, will deny it. But will it therefore follow, that I arraign the whole Nation as Traytors? By no Means. He might as well ſay, I do the ſame by *England*; for every Body knows the *Rehearſer* writes publickly againſt our Conſtitution, her Majeſty's Title, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion; all which is Treaſon, and he is not proſecuted for it. Does it therefore follow, that the whole Nation of *England* is Traitors? No certainly, 'tis ſo far from it, that the Nation in Bulk, and by their Repreſentatives, do every Day give undoubted Proofs of a ſtedfaſt and uncorruptible Loyalty; and the Nation of *Scotland* did the ſame in a very eminent Manner, as I foretold they would, when the Pretender's Invaſion was firſt talk'd of, as may be ſeen in the *Obſervator* of the 13th of *March* laſt; ſo unhappy is the *Rehearſer* in his Charge upon me; therefore all that can be inferr'd from my Words, is only this, That thoſe whoſe Province it was in *Scotland*, to prevent ſuch open and avow'd Treaſon, fail'd in their Duty; and we know too well, that the *Rehearſer*, and his Faction, are ſanguine enough to interpret ſuch a Forbearance, whether it proceeded from Neglect or Deſign, to be a Favour to their Cauſe: And ſince every Body knows what ridciulous Accounts were publiſh'd at that Time in the *French* News, and communicated by their Miniſters to ſeveral Courts, of the Hoſtages that were ſent from *Scotland*, as Pledges of that Nation's Zeal for the Pretender; how the Chevalier *de Nangis* was entertain'd at *Edinburgh*; what Invitations the Pretender had to come thither; and what mighty Numbers of People they expected to join him upon his Arrival; is it unreaſonable to think, that ſuch undutiful Neglects in thoſe who were entruſted with the *Scotch* Adminiſtration, were ſome of the Things which buoy'd up the Court of *St. Germains* in their falſe Hopes?

Country-m. No truly, Maſter, I think it no ways unreaſonable; for in my own Converſation, I have known the *Jacobites* to found very great Hopes upon leſs Things than that. But he ſays you reflect upon thoſe that were employ'd by the Government; and that all the Noblemen or Gentlemen that were brought up hither, or try'd there, are acquitted with Honour.

Obſ. There was never yet any Government in the World, eſpecially one of ſuch large Dominions as ours, but have been ill ſerv'd by ſome of thoſe they entruſted, at one Time or other, *Roger*. 'Tis none of my Buſineſs to ſay, whether that was the Caſe in *Scotland*, when they had a ſeparate Adminiſtration. But if we may believe the Proceedings of their late Parliaments, which were, from Time to Time, publiſh'd here in Print, with the Speeches and Proteſtations of many of their Members, and two Pamphlets that have been ſold about Town lately, one entitl'd, *An Anſwer to the Account of the late Diviſions in* Scotlond; and another, call'd, *A View of the late* Scotch *Miniſtry*; we have no Reaſon to think, that the Proteſtant Succeſſion, or the Liberties of the Subject, were ever ſeriouſly intended by ſome of them, eſpecially if we compare thoſe Pamphlets with the above-mention'd Accounts of the Proceedings of the Parliaments of *Scotland*, publiſh'd from Time to Time in their Minutes, as they call'd their Votes, and the two Proclamations lately iſſu'd, againſt the Growth of Popery in *Scotland*, and the Intruſion of the diſaffected Clergy into Churches there.

Country-m. I remember thoſe two Pamphlets, Maſter, and have ſeen ſome Peoples Noſes ſwell in Coffee-houſes at the Court-End of the Town, upon reading that call'd, *A View of the late* Scotch *Miniſtry*; and have ſeen others laugh at them, and heard them ſay, there was too much Truth in it; and, that it was a juſt Repriſal upon the late Courtiers in *Scotland*, for the malicious and ſcandalous Pamphlet they publiſh'd againſt the *Squadrone*, and the loyalleſt Part of the Nation, entitl'd, *An Account of the late Diviſions there*, &c.

Obſ. I hope that Matter will be ſet in a clearer Light, *Roger*, when the Informations concerning that Invaſion, and the Proceedings that have been upon it, are laid before our noble Patriots the Houſe of Commons, according to their Addreſs; and am of Opinion, that the Pamphlet, call'd, *A View of the late* Scotch *Miniſtry*, hints at many important Matters of Fact, which, if enquir'd into, might let us into a great many Things that the *Rehearſer*, and his Party, would willingly have kept ſecret; and particularly, why ſo many ill Men have been put into the Commiſſion of the Peace in that Country? This ſeems to be a very neceſſary Enquiry, *Roger*; for there are Letters to ſeveral Gentlemen in Town, which I have ſeen, that give an Account, that notwithſtanding the Queen's Proclamations above-mention'd, ſeveral Juſtices of the Peace in the Shire of *Angus* or *Mearns*, have ſo far inſulted the Law, that they have caus'd a Preacher

to

to be taken into Custody, who was sent thither by the Presbytry, to supply a Church, into which an Episcopal Preacher had intruded: And you know, *Roger*, that in the *Observator* in the 6th of *March* last, I took Notice of a Letter from a Gentleman in the *North* of *Scotland*, expressing their Apprehensions, that the Commissions of the Peace would be committed in those Countries, to such as have hitherto given but small Proof of their Loyalty to the Government; and that there w allo Complaints, that many of the Officers of as Excise, *&c.* sent down from hence into that Country, were very ill Men; so as it look'd to be the Design of some People, rather to increase, than abate *Jacobitism* among the *Scots*; which by the Complaints of that Nature in the Paper, call'd, *A View of the late* Scotch *Ministry*, seems to have been too true.

Country-m. I hope our gallant Patriots the Commons, Master, when they take the late Invasion into Consideration, will enquire who it was, that recommended such Men to be Justices of Peace.

Obj. I hope so too, *Roger*, for every Body, who knows the Character of the Lord High Chancellor of *Great Britain*, must own it to be very bright, that on all Occasions, his Lordship has strenuously appear'd for the Revolution Interest, and therefore would never pass Commissions for Men of that Sort, if he knew them to be such; so that those who recommend them, are wholly to blame for it; and since the Lord *Sommers* is now President of the Council of *Great Britain*, and that all the World knows his Lordship to be a good Patriot, to have stood up for our Constitution, in the worst of Times; and to have been a great Instrument in promoting the best Laws that have been made since the Revolution, particularly, the Toleration Act, the Triennial Act, and those for the Protestant Succession, and the Union, which will be readily acknowledg'd by all who put a just Value on those Acts, that are the fundamental Security of our Religion and Liberty: We have no Reason to doubt, that his Lordship, upon due Application from those who ought to make it from *North Britain*, will take all legal Methods to prevent and punish such Insults, as that above-mention'd, made by Justices of the Peace, on her Majesty's Laws and Proclamations, in Favour of the intruding Episcopal Clergy, as I am satisfy'd his Lordship would do against Dissenters here, should any of 'em offer to intrude upon Churches, which are reserv'd to the Church of *England*, as by Law establish'd. And since both our Secretaries of State are known to be for such an Union, as may make the whole Island easy and happy, and that the Earl of *Sunderland*, in particular, shew'd so much disinterest'd Justice to the *Scotch* Lords and Commons that were brought up hither, on Account of the Invasion; our Friends in *Scotland*, cannot say but they have very good Encouragement to expect a Redress of such Outrages as those, upon our Constitution, if they be not wanting to themselves, in laying their Complaints before the *British* Ministry.

Country-m. We must leave the *Rehearser* to farther Chastisement, Master, for I have good News to tell you. We have recover'd *Ghent*, and I hope, by this Time, are Masters of *Bruges*, which is a glorious Conclusion of the Campaign, and gives us a Prospect of marching as far as *Paris* next Year, and of humbling the Great Tyrant *Lewis* the XIV. effectually.

Obs. With all my Heart, *Roger*: No Body shall be more glad than I, to hear of that haughty Tyrant's being drove from the Society of Men, to live among Beasts, like *Nebuchadnezzar*; but I hope Measures will be justly concerted, and every Thing duly weigh'd, in order to make it successful; for we must consider, that when the Heart is in Danger, the Spirits are summon'd from all Parts of the Body to its Relief. However, *Roger*, I doubt not but by consulting the Wisdom of the Nations united in Confederacy, and taking the Advice of our Great and Wise Generals, Things may be so concerted, as, with the Blessing of God, to have the wish'd for Success. In the mean Time, I hope, Care will be taken to support King *Charles*, that he lose no farther Ground in *Spain*, 'till a favourable Opportunity offer fully to recover that Monarchy, and the *Spanish West Indies*, which is one of the main Designs of the War.

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